

Public Presentation on Inter-District School Choice to School Committee

January 8, 2024



Agenda

- State Law MGL c.76 s. 12B
- Program Administration
- Non-Discrimination Requirements
- Rights and Responsibilities of Accepted Students
- Projected Fiscal Impact
- Next Steps

State Law MGL c.76 s. 12B

- The inter-district school choice program under G.L. c. 76, § 12B, allows families to enroll their children in schools in communities other than the city or town in which they reside.
- All Massachusetts school district are required to accept the inter-district School Choice program unless they vote to opt out by June 1st
- On an annual basis, school districts may opt-out completely or opt-in on a limited basis determined by the School Committee by school, grade, and number of available spaces.

Program Administration

- If a district accepts School Choice students, they are responsible for communicating this to prospective parents/students
- If a limited number of seats are available and more students are interested than available seats, the school district must select students on a random basis without discrimination
- Receiving Districts must notify both DESE and the Sending Districts of enrolled students
- The school choice tuition for students is \$5,000 per student
- For a student with an individualized education plan (IEP), a special education increment is added to the tuition rate that the receiving district is paid based on the special education increment claim filled by the receiving district
- School Choice students who require an out-of-district placement: The receiving district pays the tuition and is reimbursed for the full cost by the sending district after filing a special education increment claim; the sending district can claim circuit breaker reimbursement.

Non-Discrimination Requirement

- *“...no school committee shall discriminate in the admission of any child on the basis of race, color, religious creed, national origin, sex, gender identity, age, sexual orientation, ancestry, athletic performance, physical handicap, special need or academic performance or proficiency in the English language.”*

Rights and Responsibilities of Accepted Students

- Once enrolled in a “*receiving district*”, a School Choice student has the right to continue attendance through grade graduation
- School Choice students have the same rights to all educational and co-curricular programs as resident students under the same terms and conditions.
- Receiving Districts are not required to provide School Choice students with transportation.
- When transportation services are required by a student's IEP, the sending district must pay the full cost.

Possible Financial Impacts (Hypothetical only)

Students Across Grades K-12	200	For Hypothetical calculation only
Expected at 95% FTE Enrollment	190	Assumes does not fill every space
Annual Tuition Received Per Student*	\$5,000	Set by State Law
Budgeted Total Revenue into School Choice Revolving Account (190 X \$5,000)	\$950,000	Funds may be used to offset any school expenditure, would recommend teacher salaries

*Does not include any Special Education Increment that would be added for a students with an IEP

Next Steps

- January 22, 2024 - School Choice Discussion with School Committee
- February 5, 2024 - Class Size and Enrollment Report
- February 26, 2024 - Demographic and Enrollment Presentation
- March 4, 2024 - Neighborhood School Discussion
- April 1, 2024 - Public Hearing on School Choice
- April 4, 2024 - School Committee Vote on School Choice

Other helpful links/information:

[DESE - Inter-District School Choice Program](#)

[Advisory on Inter-District School Choice Pursuant to G.L. c. 76, §12B](#)

[Advisory Memorandum on Financial Administration of the School Choice Program](#)

[DESE: Choosing a School: A Family Guide to Educational Options in Massachusetts](#)

[DESE School Choice FAQ's.docx](#)

[School Choice MGL's.docx](#)

[School Choice Program Administration Webinar October 2023.pptx](#)



QUESTIONS